



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2008-70 B

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

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### Burmaster appoints technology and engineering education advisory council

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster will address the first meeting of her State Superintendent’s Technology and Engineering Education Advisory Council Thursday at the Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The council, made up of industry representatives and educators, will ensure that technology and engineering remain a vital part of PK-12 education in Wisconsin. Dan Conroy of Nexen Group Inc. in Webster and Bob Riberich of Riberich Plumbing in Reedsburg will co-chair the council.

“Collaboration between business and education is crucial to our efforts to provide a high quality education to all of our students. This advisory council will support those collaborative efforts and ensure that our high school students are graduating with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education, the work place, and as citizens of our 21st century global society,” Burmaster said.

The council will provide recommendations for strengthening and growing the state’s technology and engineering education programs. It will address issues of rigor and relevance. Its recommendations also will ensure equity in those programs, strengthen alignment with postsecondary education, and build industry partnerships to support technology and engineering education.

A recent report by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy details an education and training gap in the state with shortages of skilled workers in the health care, manufacturing, information technology, and construction industries. The report calls for training for the un- and underemployed to fill jobs in these industries; jobs that provide family-sustaining wages.

(more)

“Our PK-12 schools are part of the solution to industry needs for skilled workers,” Burmaster said. “This task force will ensure that our high school graduates have a strong foundation that has prepared them to meet the expectations of our technologically based economy.”

The task force will meet twice a year. Its first meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in Wisconsin Dells. The agenda will include an overview of the current state of technology and engineering education programs in Wisconsin and a group discussion of the challenges facing those programs. Burmaster will address the council at 11:30 a.m.

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**NOTES:** A list of members of the State Superintendent’s Technology and Engineering Education Advisory Council follows. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_70.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_70.pdf).

# **State Superintendent's Technology and Engineering Education Advisory Council**

## **Council Co-Chairs**

Dan Conroy, Past Chair of Manufacturing Works, Nexen Group Inc., Webster

Bob Riberich, President, Riberich Plumbing, Reedsburg

## **Council Members**

Lauren Baker, CTE Director, Milwaukee Public Schools

Bob Barker, Director of Government Affairs, General Contractors of Wisconsin Inc., Madison

Laurie Benson, CEO, Inacom, Madison

Steve Ehle, Coordinator, WoodLINKS Wisconsin, Evansville

Veronica Ellingson, Physical Sciences Teacher, Hudson School District

Scott Fissler, Operations Director, Don Jacobs Automotive Group, Waukesha

Dean Flowers, Graphic Communications Instructor  
Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee

Scott Foster, Director of Instruction, Technology and Assessment  
Northland Pines School District, Eagle River

Alan Gomez, Career and Technical Education Coordinator, Sun Prairie School District  
President, Wisconsin Technology Education Association

Tony Ingram, Technology Education Teacher, Horlick High School, Racine

Jon Jensen, Associate Dean, Marquette University, Milwaukee

Kelly Koller, Technology Education Teacher, Manawa High School

Jim Mackey, Engineering and Manufacturing Consultant, Wisconsin Technical College System

Doug McDougall, Technology Education Teacher, Glidden High School

Bob Meyer, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie

Jeremie Meyer, Technology Education Teacher, Preble High School, Green Bay

Jim Morgan, Vice President, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

Paul Nistler, Principal, Brillion High School

Ann Sinclair, Education Consultant, Apple, Kenosha

Frank Steck, Program Director for Technology Education  
Department of Industrial Studies, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Chip McDonald, Solutions Architect, Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee

Sylvia Tiala, Professor, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie

Mark Tyler, Owner, OEM Fabricators, Woodville